

THE T. EATON CO. LIMITED

HEAD OFFICE

VIA AIR MAIL

TORONTO 1,  
January 21st,  
1964.

Dear Bess:

Many thanks for your letter which arrived this morning. I was so glad to have news of you, but I do know you have very little time to write.

I am glad you had a little travelling before arriving in Frankfurt, but Munich must have been quite a shock. I saw Frank McEachren shortly after his return (or have I told you this?), and spoke of the fun every one had and how well you were looking after Lady Eaton. Mrs. Art McCrea called me today, and told me of the reaction of Jane and Jimmy, and it was the experience of a lifetime. They had some very nice things to say about you.

I hope Lady Eaton will not be too impatient in the hospital. We always have quite time when she is in the Toronto General, but she would expect more of them than in Frankfurt. The main thing is - will these treatments do her good, as she is pinning her faith on them.

I do wish I had some good old gossip to give you, but I have not collected a thing. I do not see many of your friends but when I do they are all asking what I know. Did I tell you that where I went for Christmas noontime dinner I found Lorna Rumble and Phyllis Stagg. I did not know they were mutual friends of the hostess. Lorna Rumble is back working for a while - probably because of Yorkdale. I don't know how Phyllis Stagg is. She was not herself Christmas Day - none of her usual vitality.

If you want to know anything about any one or anything write to me and I'll try to ferret out the information. I am very poor at gathering news.

Wren is back at Eaton Hall for about four weeks and is doing inventories. I think Mr. Walker <sup>will tell</sup> ~~will tell~~ Lady Eaton what he knows. I have had several, <sup>two</sup> ~~and two~~ to be exact, with Wren, and he is on Cloud 9. They were married in the Unitarian Church and had a reception of 15 people. Some they didn't invite because they knew they would not be speaking to them afterwards, he tells me. He said the

Does the name of your hotel mean you are beside a Zoo.

(2)

rumours they have been hearing about themselves are fantastic. Last time I was talking to him he said his wife was out house hunting - out Markham way. They can rent cheaper in the country than the city. This would indicate they are going to take the children which I think her parents have every intention they will do. They have also told Mr. Walker they are cutting off her allowance. Well, that's understandable. They also told him that Mr. R.S. is "displeased". However, all and all I wish the Wrens every success, and I hope they show every one that it can be worked out, but I sure am sorry to see him leaving Eaton Hall.

I was out to Eaton Hall for a day about ten days ago, and I was alone in the house most of the time. Wren had not come back to work yet, and there were just the Crawfords. The Walkers very kindly had me over to lunch, and I had a nice visit with them.

The Canadian Players Guild had a good evening at Craigwold about which I wrote to Lady Eaton. This is a group you will probably be involved in with Lady Eaton as well as Canadian Players Foundation meetings. Theatre work is interesting, though, as you know, ~~but~~ full of headaches. For your information, I told Lady Eaton that Bill Hutt asked me to say they would be happy to see her at Chichester when the Stratford Festival group open there the first week in April.

I am going to Barbados for three weeks' holidays leaving on February 17th and returning March 7th. A friend of mine is taking a tiny house for two months, and I thought it was a golden opportunity to go down. Mr. Walker wrote to Lady Eaton yesterday about his, and asking when he could expect her home. He would like to go in March, I think, but probably it will be three weeks in February. Mr. Leith and Mr. Marston will be on hand to take care of things if we are both away at the same time. If you have any indication of what Lady Eaton intends to do just drop me a note. However, you can't force the issue, I know, and you just have to let events take their turn.

We are having almost spring weather, and will soon have lost our snow of which we had plenty. I don't know how long this will last, but it is a pleasant respite.

Well, Bess, I will close for the time being. I hope you won't be too lonely in Frankfurt or that it will be too ~~grimm~~ gruelling, but I know the daily grind of back and forth, shopping, etc. can be. I am so glad to hear Grete is holding her end up.

Yours, Helen

7.2

THE T. EATON CO. LIMITED

HEAD OFFICE

VIA AIR MAIL

TORONTO 1,  
February 3rd,  
1964.

Dear Bess;

Many thanks for your last two letters. Your letter of January 29th arrived this morning.

With regard to requests -

There are only two copies of Memory's Wall in stock between College Street and Main Store. Will get these two copies over to Customs today to be airmailed. The other two will arrive from Clarke Irwin in a couple of days. It must be selling. Last week they had five copies.

I am sure Lady Eaton will be thinking of the portraits Gaby took of her when she asks for photographs. They are the most recent and very lovely. I am airmailing today two - one of each pose we ordered at the time. These are quite large but may serve some purpose until four more are ready from Gaby. These large ones are the only ones on hand, and were used as samples. The present order is for 8 x 10 size, and two of each pose. What concerns me is that the present order cannot be ready until perhaps February 12th. Gaby is in Montreal, incidentally. I telephoned the order this morning.

Stockings - my thinking certainly was poor in the light of what you told me about Lady Eaton's present stockings. I was thinking it would be in order for them to be here on her return from overseas. However, the Dept. telephoned Chicago as soon as your note arrived, and they should be here this week.

Nothing is simple.

I am so glad Lady Eaton is finding her stay at the hospital beneficial. She was counting on it so much. It is also good that she is not confined. I have never met the Von Struves but they must be very nice people.

I like so much hearing about the little things you're doing, like buying a teakettle, boiling an egg, buying this and that. I can't wear European clothes either.

You will know that Mr. Pryce is now home from the hospital and much better. As I have heard it from Mr. Walker it was a case of balancing a gall bladder condition and the diabetes. He has looked ill for so long I always wondered what the trouble was.

I think Mrs. Mood was writing you last Friday. She phoned to get your address.

I will be writing Lady Eaton tomorrow to tell her about the opening of the Canadian Players in "Private Lives" at the Royal Alexandra tonight. I have a feeling she is not ~~at~~ all interested, and I am sorry. There will be another opening on Thursday night with "Masterpieces of English Comedy". Each night there is a party afterwards in the upstairs lounge and it is very nice. Tonight the French trade commissioner is donating Champagne, French cheese and biscuits. We buy our tickets, but donot pay for the Champagne as well.

I have not talked to Mary for quite a while, and must before I go on holidays. She was well, and enjoying being at home. She had Carina with her at first, but Carina took fits, had to ~~get~~ go to the doctor, or rather vet. He said it was very common in such tiny dogs. He prescribed some medicine, and the Timothy Eatons have taken her as they have dogs of their own that size and breed.

Irma is an excellent person. She was so responsible when the Canadian Players Guild had their Study Group at Craigwold. She took full responsibility, and the house looked lovely. The Guild, of course, brought in their own caterers.

There will be some excitement at Craigwold on the night of February 13th. The outside is going to be filmed for a scene in the dramatization of Morley Callaghan's book "Joy in Heaven". It will be shown on Channel six in 8 parts. They have done several Canadian books in this series. The hero is seen arriving at the house for a cocktail party, and that is all, but it will take two hours to film. This has been chearled with Mr. McEachren. Will be telling Lady Eaton about it.

Kyriakos is fine. I don't see much of him, and when I do he is not too keen about talking to me. I usually lose my temper with him. Mr. Eaton said today he had fired his couple and was borrowing Kyriakos. He was going to treat him so well he wouldn't want to go back to Lady Eaton. This, of course, was a threat not a promise.

I had quite a surprise last Friday afternoon. Mr. and Mrs. Wren arrived at the office to see me. My she is a big young woman. She makes Wren look small, and he certainly isn't.

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I would say there was a fair amount of her grandfather in her. I think what you said about other members of the family would apply to her also - what she wants she gets. She made no bone about the fact that she fell for Wren - it wasn't a case of his coaxing her, I'm sure. However, they both seem infatuated. It's a strange thing, though. I heard that her parents said that since they were determined to marry the could take the children. Wren and his wife on Friday said they had just been in court as they were fighting the parents for the custody of the children. Now, I ask you. What gives. Continued next week. I think you are very discreet not to mention my stories o Wren to her. I know she would disapprove of my seeing them, but I certainly hope I shan't lose sight of them.

Mr. Walker leaves for Florida on Marx February 7th and returns the end of February. I leave on the 17th of Feb. and return on March 7th, so there will be only two weeks when we are both away. Mr. Leith and Mr. Marston will be here, and if there is anything in the financial way you require be sure to write Mr. M.A. Leith, Estates Office, as he will be alerted to look after things for us. I hope Lady Eaton will not have any requests, because Mr. Leith and Mr. Marston are not as accustomed to dealing with them as Mr. Walker. ( I am referring to things like getting her pink brassiere out of the left hand drawer, etc.)

Many thanks for your good wishes to us holiday trippers. I personally can hardly wait. Think what a sweet disposition I'll have when I return.

Yours,

*Helen*

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Petters from  
Athen McLean  
Lady Eaton  
Mrs. Meecham  
whole overseas  
1964

EATON CO.<sup>LIMITED</sup>

HEAD OFFICE

VIA AIR MAIL

TORONTO 1,  
March 26th,  
1964.

Dear Bess:

Many thanks for your letter which arrived today. I am sorry you have not had one from me wishing you a Happy Easter but as you can see I am thinking of it. You should have a most interesting day in Rome. I can remember being with Lady Eaton in Rome for Easter, and being blessed from the balcony, but it did not do me any good either. I was particularly naughty after that.

I was astounded on my return from holidays to see the length of your sojourn in Europe, and wondered how you were managing with your private affairs. I gather you have them under control.

I know what you mean by the lira. Last year I had them coming out of my ears due to a miscalculation on my part.

I was interested in what you say about the treatments as they are waning just as they did last fall. In her telephone conversation on Monday Lady Eaton said her arthritis was bothering her.

Do not worry about yourself. All of us know exactly how you feel, and I am sure Grette is doing a good job because of you. I do hope you have liked Italy. I am very partial to it myself, but of course have not a clue as to the language. I didn't even try. I am particularly fond of Florence.

My holidays in Barbados were wonderful, and it seems like a dream now that all day long I heard the sea and watched all its colours. Toronto struck me as so colourless when I arrived home. We have had lots of snow since, and right now it is snowing. The weather has really been disagreeable.

Mr. Walker asked me to send you their regards when writing. He says he thinks of you often but by the time he writes Lady Eaton he hasn't much strength left. They had an excellent holiday, too. I have no dirt at all to tell you. Lady Eaton will have told you that Mary is married.

Will write again as I am in the groove now.

Yours

9.1



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